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ONE WEEK ENGAGEMENT



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GENTS--

1  
TON

--SEE THE  
STRANGEST  
SHOW ON  
EARTH!

STORM  
GODDESS OF ELEMENTS

ONCE THEY  
WERE A MIGHTY  
SUPER-TEAM--  
NOW THEY ARE MERE  
PERFORMING  
FREAKS!

WOLVERINE

MAN OR MONSTER?

KILLER  
BEAST IN  
HUMAN FORM!

SAVAGE!

0



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GENTS--

1  
TON

--SEE THE  
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EARTH!

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GODDESS OF ELEMENTS

ONCE THEY  
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**SUPER-TEAM--**  
NOW THEY ARE MERE  
PERFORMING  
FREAKS!

KILLER  
BEAST IN  
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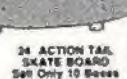
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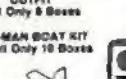
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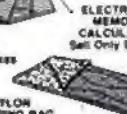
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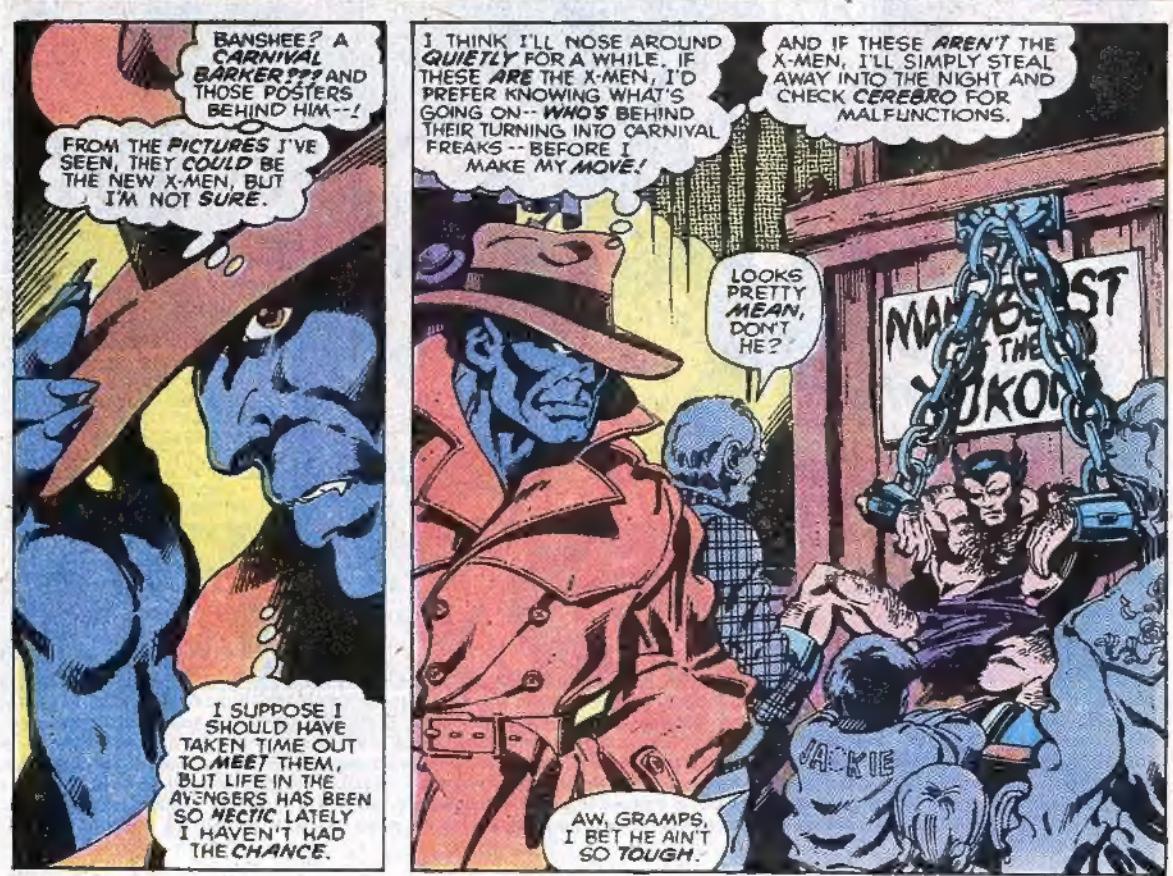
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Author | Penciler | Inker | MARY TITUS, colorist | Editor



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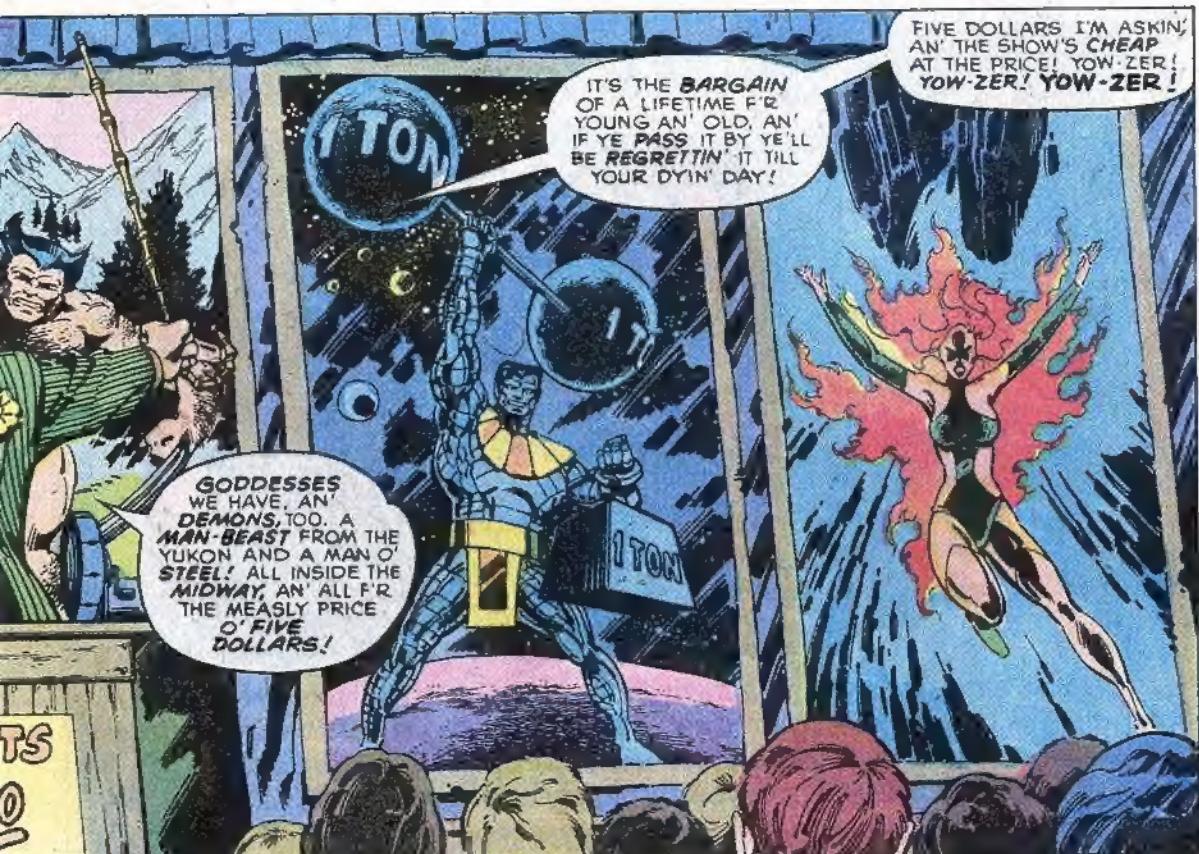


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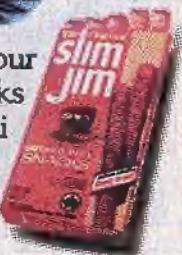


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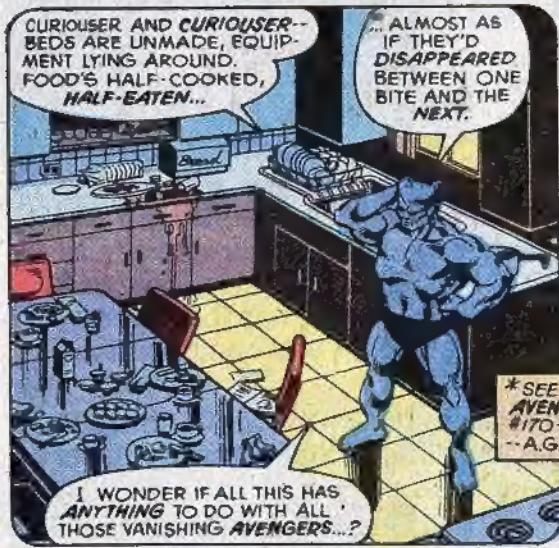
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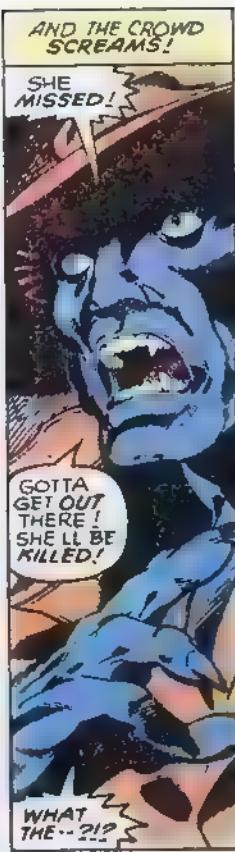
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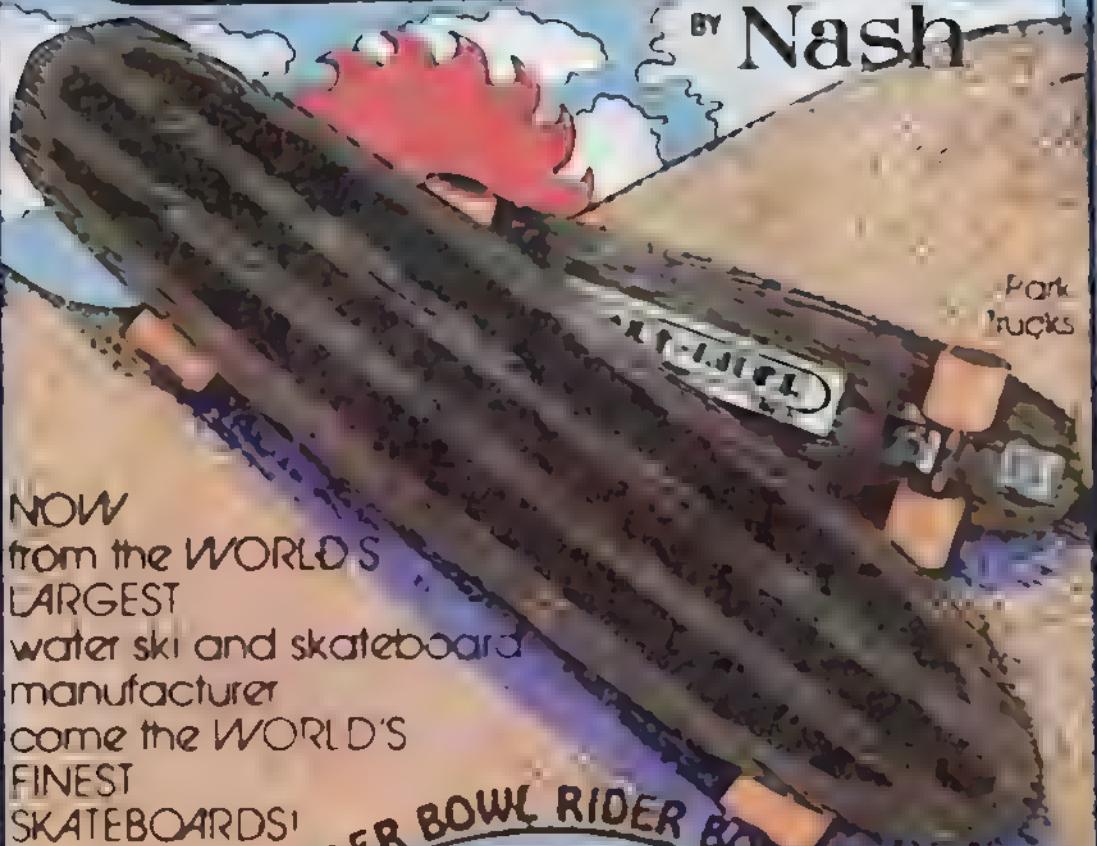
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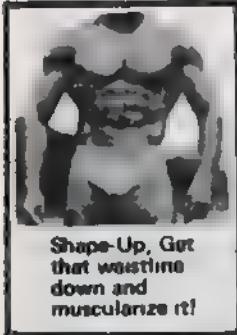
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ooohhhhhh

Anyone get the number  
of that uru hammer?

IF THAT WAS  
A FIST THAT  
HIT ME, I DON'T  
THINK I WANT TO  
SEE THE BODY IT'S  
ATTACHED TO

HEY, YOU  
GLTS! THE  
RUSSKIES  
FOUND  
ME!

THAT TALKIN' TEDDY BEAR'S  
IN THE FREAK SHOW TENT!

THANKS  
A HEAP,  
COLOSSUS

THAT PUNCH HURT! MY HEAD'S FULL OF  
COTTON WOOL AND RAILROAD SPIKES  
AND MY LEGS FEEL LIKE RUBBER

CAN BARELY  
STAND, LET  
ALONE FIGHT

GIVE THE BEAST CREDIT, HE TRIES--  
BUT HE'S TOO BADLY HURT, AND THE  
ODDS AGAINST HIM ARE TOO GREAT.

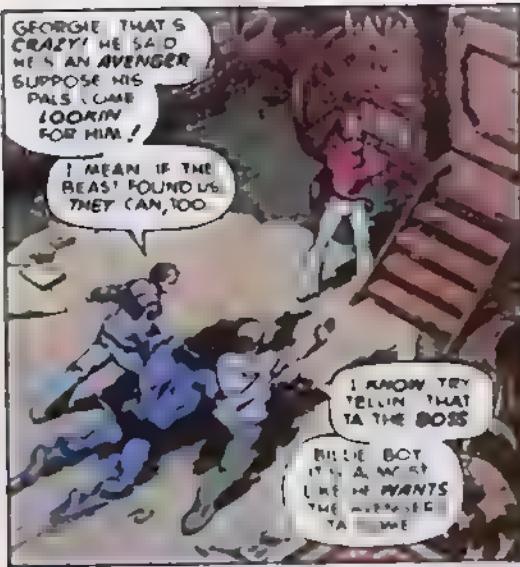
HE DOESN'T  
EVEN LAST  
FIVE  
MINUTES

DO WE  
KILL M  
GEORGE?

NOPE BOSS WANTS HIM ALIVE TAKE HIM  
YER TA THE MAIN CARAYAN

BOSS SAYS  
HE'S GONNA  
DO FER FUZZY  
HERE WHAT  
HE DID FOR  
THE OTHERS.

MMNNNOOO !



MESMERO'S EYES BEGIN TO GLOW AMID THE DARKNESS OF HIS CARAVAN AND MARVEL MCCOY FEELS HIS UNIVERSE SLIPPING OUT FROM UNDER HIM

AT THAT SAME MOMENT ACROSS THE CIRCUS LOT.





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# X-MEN

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Dear people,

An initial disappointment in my recently renascent life with comics was the appalling line-up of my erstwhile favorite team. That woman with whipped cream for hair and eggs for eyes, um, took the cake! It's uncanny, but in the past months I've been won over (as for Ororo, I couldn't *not* love her after her senses-shattering battle in IRON FIST #15 with the potato salad). We all have those kind'a days, I, and after reading X-MEN #107, I don't know if I can do justice in this letter. Claremont's magnificently *inventive* storylines, densely-packed and delightful (well, Wolverine's nice to hate) characterizations, little sub-plots (?) (like their vehicles' propensity for destruction) and the occasional appearance of familiar faces, really make the X-MEN again a fun and involving series. The current story is exciting and vividly imagined. I would suggest, though, that cases of the mushies, even Jungian positive-anima variety, i.e. the Princess, just blur a bit. Leave Xavier some of his mountain clear remoteness and cool rational authority. I like him that way. By the way, where does IF #15 fit into the chronology? It's after Firelord (X-MEN #105), Wolverine has Fang's costume on but Lilandra et al are at the party. My perceptive room-mate made me question this, as the whole universe is presently cliff hanging.

Again, X-MEN is being handled beautifully...just can't wait to see it with my favorite artist, too! I keep telling myself *everything* Marvel does can't be Claremont & Byrne, but it's hard not to get spoiled.

Urendi Maeldil,  
Anna Greenleaf

433 Washington, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Anna, your letter is—as all your others are—most welcome, and was one of a vast multitude of favorable missives sent in about Dave Cockrum's final (regularly-scheduled issue of) X-MEN. To answer your room-mate's question: IRON FIST #15 takes place between X-MEN #'s 108 & 109. Don't ask us how, just accept our word for it. (After all, we had to accept Claremont's...)

Dear Chris & Dave

X-MEN #107 was perfect!

Sandy Jarrel  
4101A Woodlake Place  
Raleigh, NC 27807

Hello, greetings & salutations

Fantastic! X-MEN #107 was the best, the absolute best comic I have ever read. I just can't seem to put it down.

ART number one job! The Imperial Guard fit so perfectly into the alien background. It's rare to read a comic where

the heroes don't really seem to fit into their surroundings.

Query do I spy a slight similarity between the Imperial Guard and DC's Legion of Super-Heroes?

PLOT. Equalized, if not surpassed, the caliber of Dave's pencils. Lilandra's story was super! I enjoyed the way that the Z'nox were tied in. Great way to have Wolverine "acquire" his new costume. I hope you'll keep the Starjammers around for a long time.

At the risk of repeating myself: *FANTASTIC!!*

Gina Griffin

#6 / 13450 Fort Road

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5A 1C5

Legion of who, Gina—?! As far as the Starjammers go (and, no, they are not now, were not meant to be, will never become Cockrum *doppelgangers* of the Fatal Five, regardless of what a number of you readers think!), Dave and Chris have a dandy origin and storyline tucked away in the back of their collective minds, unfortunately, Dave is being kept so busy these days in, his dual role as Deputy Art Director and artist on MS. MARVEL that he doesn't have time to even *think* about the concept, let alone pencil any art. We'll get to their story someday, Gina; you'll just have to be patient. And live to be a hundred years old.

To the Sponsors of Prof. Xavier's School for Gifted Youngsters

We vote go monthly, but only if you can maintain this incredible level of quality. The scope of the mag is really amazing. There's so much to the title that we wear it out reading and rereading the stories. In case you haven't noticed, we're absolutely in love with the new X-MEN. So, until you hear a knocking at your door and two bespectacled goddesses appear at your offices.

Bernie & Barb Armata

59 East St

Adams, MA 01220

This armadillo will await your coming with bated breath, gentle-beings (after all, he hasn't really had a shot at a decent date since he got on the wrong bus and ended up in Prospect Park, Brooklyn instead of the Bronx Zoo—sh, Jo, will you ever find it in your heart to forgive him???) He got mugged, too, y'know.) And don't worry about the spectacles; armadillos can't see too well, either (hence the problem with that fash-lugginer bus!) Just bring chocolates.

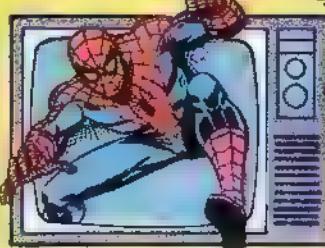
If you have to ask, Ron, telling you the answer really won't do any good.

NEXT ISSUE Our heroes have been in rough straits before and come through in fine shape. Unfortunately, they've also fought Magneto before, and he beat them. Badly. How they'll do this time is anybody's guess, but next issue's title should give you a hint. Be here in sixty, true believers, and you'll see: MAGNETO TRIUMPHANT!

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WHO ARE YOU?! WHAT DO YOU WANT?!? YOU KEEP AWAY FROM ME, HEAR--? KEEP AWAY!

NAME'S WOLVERINE, JEAN. I'M ONE O' THE X-MEN. JUST LIKE YOU ARE

ALL YA GOTTA DO IS REMEMBER

SLIM... HELP!!

BACK OFF, SHRIMP! YA WANNA MESS WITH MISS GREY, YOU'RE GONNA HAVETA GO THROUGH SLIM SUMMERS FIRST!





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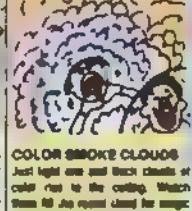


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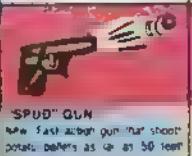
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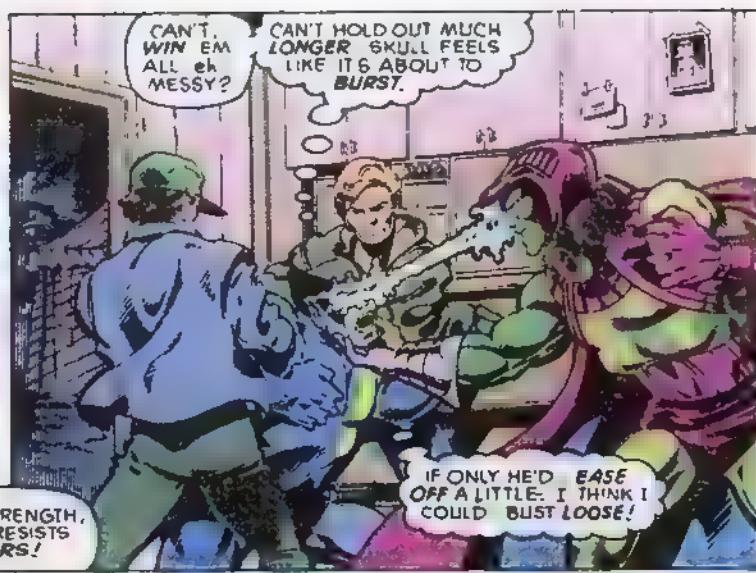
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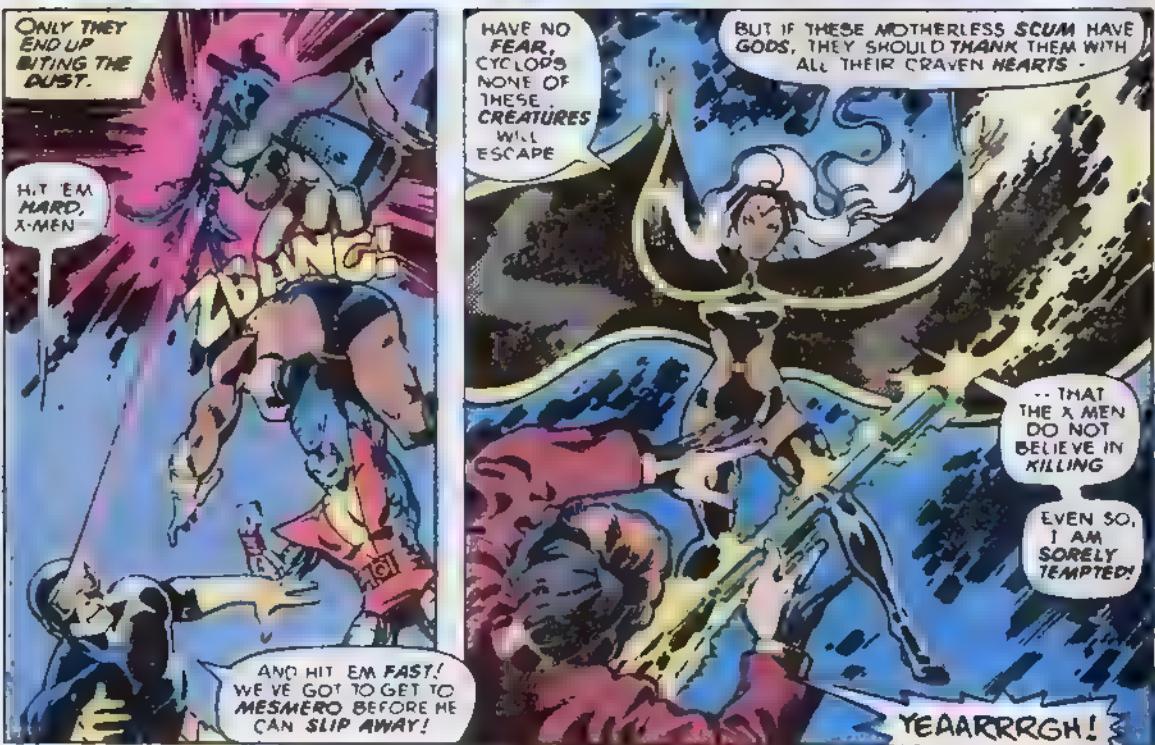
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# MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS

Volume 1, Number 1 • June 1977 • Associate Editor • MARY FREDRICKS, ART DIRECTOR  
 Design Director • RONALD LEE • Art Director • MARSHALL ROSENBLUM • Consulting Editors • JAMES GIBSON,  
 DAVID S. LEE, Art Directors • ALAN VERROURTEN • Production Manager •

## STAN'S SOAPBOX

It's a funny thing - not "the hell" funny, but kind of odd - no matter what part of the country I visit, the questions asked on college campuses are pretty much the same. One querulous query can run with constantly: "How come Marvel is always bringing out new titles when you guys have so much trouble producing the old ones on time?" Used to see you the trouble of saying it on my soapbox in the future, ability to eliminate the burning issue here and now? "Know if we were just interested in doing things, the new ones would never change our ways. We'd just keep publishing the same titles all the time. After all, why not? They sell pretty well. We know how to do 'em. They're nice and safe and don't pose too many problems. So, how come we're always taking new titles, new heroes and new concepts at you? Why knock ourselves out designing an issue of CLOSE ENCOUNTERS during the life story of THE BEATLES, coming up with BEACH-N-E-MAN adding SPIDER-WOMAN to our many lineage of cartoon characters? Is it because we're never satisfied unless we have too much

work to do? Is it because we're plotters for punishment? Is it cause we're nuts? Probably. But mainly it's because of you kids! You and the untold legions of Marvelous Assembled who bombard us with hundreds of letters a week demanding new books, new characters and new ideas. If a few weeks go by without something unexpected and different coming forth from the mighty Marvel fantasy factory, you assault us of not doing right by you of lying down on the job or of growing soft and indolent! But it's not your fault. It's the age we live in. Look at TV - new shows cropping up all the time as old ones are dropped and reshuffled. Each month the public (and that's you and me) Charter gets more and more added, more demanding of new products, new surprises, new types of entertainment. The whole pace of life all over the world seems to be speeding up. We get more books, more movies, more games, more cars - we want more of everything, and we want it faster and faster. But fear thee not. O Frightful One! Let not a single minute of apprehension further thy noble breed! As you can see, we're trying to give you the

best of both worlds. We're keeping the world-famous Marvel line up intact as possible so that you can enjoy your favorite month in and month out with out interruption while at the same time, we're just loaded of brand new projects on the drawing board new themes, new titles, new plots and ideas! After all, our dear old ones are just as valuable to you. While they're still with the Marvel roster of the world's top-selling super-heroes, they too will be set their teeth into exciting new and different projects! And that's it. That's the reason for all the new stuff even though it goes against us. We're trying it for you - and we're doing it for all. Some new features will succeed and some will fail by the wayside. Your guess is as good as ours. But that's what makes for excitement and remember excitement's the name of the game. So bear with us here! No matter what the future brings, we promise it won't be dull!

Excited!

As this column was being prepared, we were shocked by the unexpected death of John Verpoorten. He worked at Marvel for nearly twelve years, the last seven of them as our Production Manager. To those of you who read our books, his name may not be quite so familiar as those of our regular artists and writers, but among working professionals probably no one outside of Stan himself represented Marvel more. A Production Manager stands at the center of things. He oversees the flow of work as it moves from artist to writer to letterer to colorist and on to the engraver and printer, and he tries to make certain that all this happens something like on schedule. And the collective consensus that is the Marvel style, this can be an almost impossible task. The testimony

to John is not that he did the impossible but that he did it with warmth, with humor and with understanding. Having started in the field as an artist, older fans will remember his riding on such strips as the FANTASTIC FOUR, the IRON MAN and CAPTAIN AMERICA, may have left him with more tolerance and appreciation of all the many problems that can beset anyone producing comic books at any step of the way. Certainly there are fine staffers or functionaries for

show at one time or another he didn't bend a rule, make an exception, or go out on a limb. This was his job requirement, any kind of a necessity, but it made Marvel a better place to work and ultimately probably made the work produced by Marvel better as well. Like most of us, John had his quirks, he got tired and sometimes grew weary. But never so tired that a bit of off-the-horizon-of-problems could make him smile, and not so cynical that a well-drawn page or a well-produced book was of little value to him. Whether he was destined to admit it or not, John cared about comics and about the people he knew and dealt with in producing them. And in the end, of all the things we'll miss about John, it's the caring we'll miss most.

JOHN VERROURTEN  
1940 - 1977

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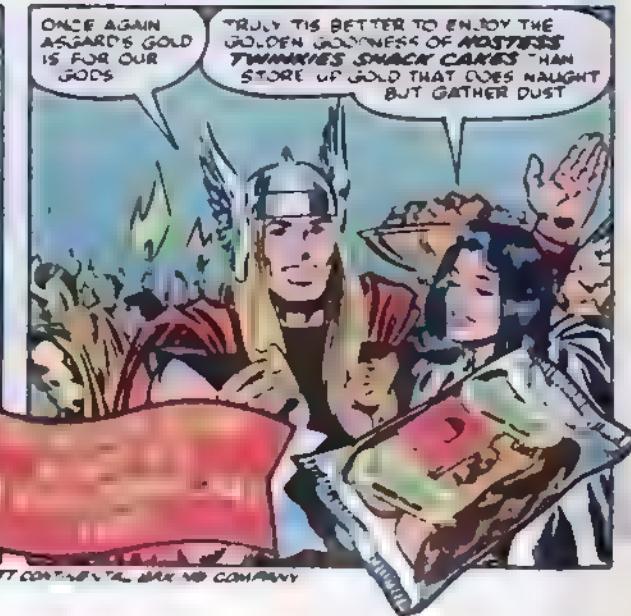
I CONFESS THE DELICIOUS GOLDEN CAKE OF HOSTESS TWINKIES SNACK CAKES PLEASES ME MORE THAN THE GOLD OF METAL.

THE CREAMED FILLING TOO IS WORTHY OF THE GODS.



ONCE AGAIN ASGARD'S GOLD IS FOR OUR GODS.

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WRATH--

--AND  
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NOT!

THIS TIME, THE  
FINAL VICTORY  
WILL BELONG TO--

--MAGNETO!

\*X-MEN  
#104. -- A.G.

NEXT ISSUE: TWO WORDS SAY IT ALL, TWO WORDS THAT COULD VERY WELL SOUND  
THE DEATH KNELL OF THE X-MEN:

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